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CITY OF BOSTON Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes Thursday, July 22, 2021, 2:00 PM Virtual Meeting held remotely via Google Meet Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Commission Members Present: Linda Champion, Vivien Li and City Clerk Maureen Feeney

Others Present: Assistant City Clerk Alex Geourntas.

Not Present: Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair and Christine O'Donnell representing City Council President Pro Tempore Matt O'Malley

Call to order at 3:03 PM

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to have Linda Champion serve as Acting Chair for this Commission meeting, seconded by City Clerk Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Linda Champion, Acting Chair of the Commission, opened the virtual meeting by welcoming everyone.

Motion to accept the June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by City Clerk Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Online Form for Lobbying Complaints

The online form is ready to go and a few questions remain on what happens after an individual submits the form online. Work with IT Analytics Team regarding a response after submission.

Motion was offered by Vivien Li reaffirming Linda Champion to continue working with the City Clerk's Office to finalize the online form, seconded by City Clerk Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

CITY CLERK REPORT

City Clerk Maureen Feeney presented an update on the July 20, 2021 Reporting Period as follows:

REPORTED: 216 Lobbyists
 113 Clients
 56 Lobbying Entities
 385 Total Reported

NEED TO REPORT: 51 Lobbyists
 27 Clients
 23 Lobbyist Entities
 101 Total Need to Report

City Clerk Maureen Feeney continued to share her frustrations with the current Lobbying application that is utilized through IPS. The current system has many limitations making it difficult for external users and staff that need to perform many tasks manually on behalf of registrants.

The Google Docs processing portion is a tedious undertaking involving a great deal of time and effort to create the municipal data set for public viewing of all reports filed on July 20, 2021. Registration and filing of statement reports are continuing challenges for all concerned.

City Clerk Maureen Feeney informed the Commission that a meeting with IT is being scheduled to discuss options for an improved process and/or lobbying application. Streamlining the process and helping staff in processing the information submitted during registration and reporting will be our main objectives.

Commission members will continue to be as supportive as possible of the City Clerk's efforts to improve the Lobbying registration and reporting process utilized by the city.

A letter will be prepared to be sent to all registrants reminding them of lobbying requirements and deadlines. This would be a friendly reminder that the city is open for business along with a copy of the city ordinance and the Lobbying Regulations. Linda Champion, Acting Commission Chair, will review letter prior to distribution.

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to proceed with the drafting an "open for business" letter for all registrants, seconded by City Clerk Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to approve letter after review by Commission member, Linda Champion and seconded by Linda Champion. All in favor.

FAILURE TO COMPLY LETTER

A “failure to comply” letter was prepared and distributed by Linda Champion, Acting Commission Chair, to all Commission members for review.

City Clerk Maureen Feeney to further review letter and follow-up with Linda Champion on finalizing language and mailing criteria.

Linda Champion mentioned that this letter should be delivered via certified mail and City Clerk Maureen Feeney stated that it may not be possible due to budget constraints.

There will be no Commission meeting during the month of August 2021.

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to adjourn meeting and seconded by City Clerk Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.